

and to encourage their recycling. The rules prohibit use of polythene bags made of recycled plastics for storing, carrying or packaging of ready-to-eat foodstuffs. Minimum thickness of virgin or recycled polythene bags has been specified as 20 microns. These rules also provide that the manufacture of plastics shall be undertaken as per the guidelines prescribed by the Bureau of Indian Standards.

Japanese investment in forest projects

2189. SHRI D. P. YADAV: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Japan is going to invest in new forest projects in India;
- (b) whether this investment is being made for Aravali forests, Rajasthan Forest Development and for other projects; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) to (c) Aravali Forest Project, Rajasthan has been posed to Japan Bank for International Co-operation (JBIC) through the Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance for Consideration for funding. The cost of the project is Rs. 555.75 crores, covering an area of about 1,45,000 hectares over a period of eight years. This project has been appraised by JBIC in 1998-99. Decision for funding the project has not been taken by them. No other forestry project has been formally posed to JBIC for funding.

Agricultural forests

† 2190. SHRI RAJNATH SINGH 'SURYA': Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that 69 percent of total forest in the country comprise agriculture forests;
- (b) if so, what is their position in forest policy of the country;

† Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.